

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF STENOLOPHINA
(COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE: HARPALINI)
FROM NEW ZEALAND

B.P. MOORE

CSIRO, Division of Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT 2601

Abstract

Haplanister crypticus gen. et sp. nov. is described from various localities in New Zealand, where it is now widespread. Notwithstanding its relatively recent discovery and its current abundance in certain pastoral districts, it is known also from natural habitats. It remains unclear whether the species is a native that is now proliferating in artificial environments or an introduced alien that has not yet been recognised in its country of origin.

Introduction

Within the last quarter-century, a small winged harpaline carabid that previously was undetected in the New Zealand fauna has become increasingly common in pastoral districts of that country. This led local entomologists to suspect that the species could be another case of establishment of a recently imported alien and specimens therefore were submitted to me for identification. However, the genus and species are currently unknown to me from Australia and I have never come across them in any world-based collection that I have examined; nor are they covered by Noonan's (1976) revision of world higher taxa of Harpalini. Moreover, the species in question has since been discovered in more remote and little modified regions of New Zealand, including two small off-shore islands. Thus it is still unclear whether we are dealing with a native insect that has adapted recently to man-made agrarian environments, or an introduced alien that has not been detected yet in its native country.

***Haplanister* gen. nov.**

(Figs 1-5)

Type species: *Haplanister crypticus* sp. nov.

A genus of Carabidae: Harpalini: Stenolophina with the following character states.

Body small; antennae short, segments 3-11 pubescent; labial palpi bisetose; paraglossae (Fig. 2, p) short, not meeting in front of ligula; mentum (Fig. 2, m) with a median tooth; frontal furrows deep but short; prosternum and abdominal sternites without fine pubescence; elytra with weak striae on second intervals; third intervals with one (postmedian) pore; humeral umbilical series consisting of 6 pores, the sixth widely removed from the others; posterior series of 7 pores, not widely segregated into subseries; elytral apical margins widely rounded, scarcely sinuate; tarsi glabrous above; tarsomere-1 of hind tarsi short; male foretarsi unmodified; aedeagus (Figs 4-5) small; median lobe short, well sclerotised; no well defined armature in internal sac; parameres short, subequal, the left ventral to median lobe in

repose; female stylomeres (Fig. 3) unarmed, stylomere-2 short, stout, with one apical seta.

Characters that indicate that this genus should be placed in the subtribe Stenolophina include the small body size, the bisetose labial palpi, the widely rounded elytral apical margins and the general habitus of the type species. The unmodified male foretarsi are exceptional but scattered occurrences of this kind are known within the tribe Harpalini and, in particular, in the Australian genus *Haplaner* Chaudoir (1878) of the Stenolophina.

Noonan (1976) placed *Haplaner* in his "*incertae sedis*", largely because of the simple male foretarsi in the type species (*Harpalus velox* Castelnau), the form of the male foretarsal vestiture (when present) being crucial in harpaline classification. However, an undescribed species of *Haplaner* is now known to the present author, in which these organs are biserially squamose beneath, thus confirming the suggested placement (Moore, Weir and Pyke 1987) close to *Stenolophus* Dejean. This and other new species of *Haplaner* will be dealt with in a separate paper.

The type species of *Haplanister*, described below, certainly resembles, in general habitus, a small species of *Haplaner* (hence the choice of new generic name) but differs in the following respects: presence of a tooth in the mentum, the short, free paraglossae not completely embracing the ligula, the elytral apical umbilical series continuous, presence of weak elytral scutellary striae, tarsomere-1 of the hind tarsi short, aedeagus short and female stylomeres unarmed.

Haplanister crypticus sp. nov.

(Figs 1-5)

Types. Holotype ♂, NEW ZEALAND: HB, Hastings, ii.1979, A. Moeed, in New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Auckland (NZAC). Paratypes: 11 (both sexes), same data as holotype (NZAC and B.P. Moore Collection, Canberra); 4 (both sexes), WI, Palmerston North, ex light trap in hill country pasture, 6.xi.1974-23.iv.1975, J.M. Esson (NZAC); 1♂, 1♀, Mt Te Atuparapara, G. Ramsay (NZAC); 1♂, TK, Hump Plateau, 1220 m, Ponakai Ra., ex litter, 3.xii.1975, J.S. Dugdale (NZAC); 1♀, WO, Rukuhia, rye grass-paspalum pasture, 2.iv.1979, J.M. Barker (NZAC).

Description. Upperside microreticulate, largely dark brown; femora, apical half of tibiae, first antennomeres and maxillary palpomeres, light red; remaining appendages piceous; underside largely black. Head small, smooth, c. 0.85 mm across eyes; eyes neither large nor very prominent; palpi short; pronotum suborbicular, widest about front third; c. 1.4 x wider than head; anterior margin lightly emarginate; posterior margin subtruncate; anterior angles obtuse but subprominent; posterior angles widely rounded; sides rounded from apex to base, slightly oblique in posterior half; marginal

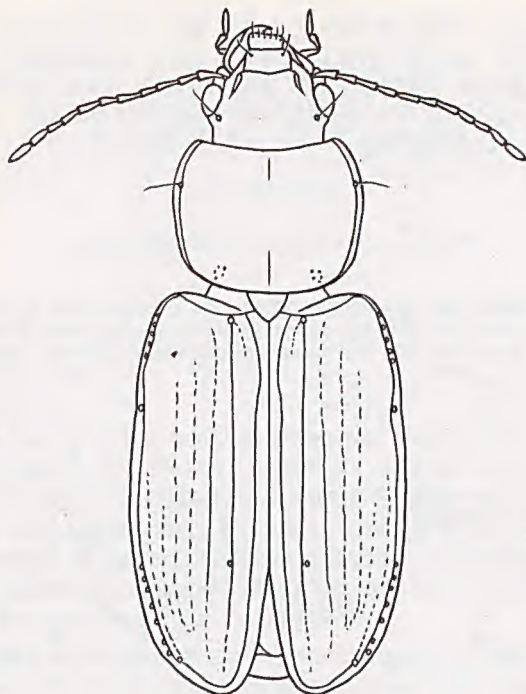
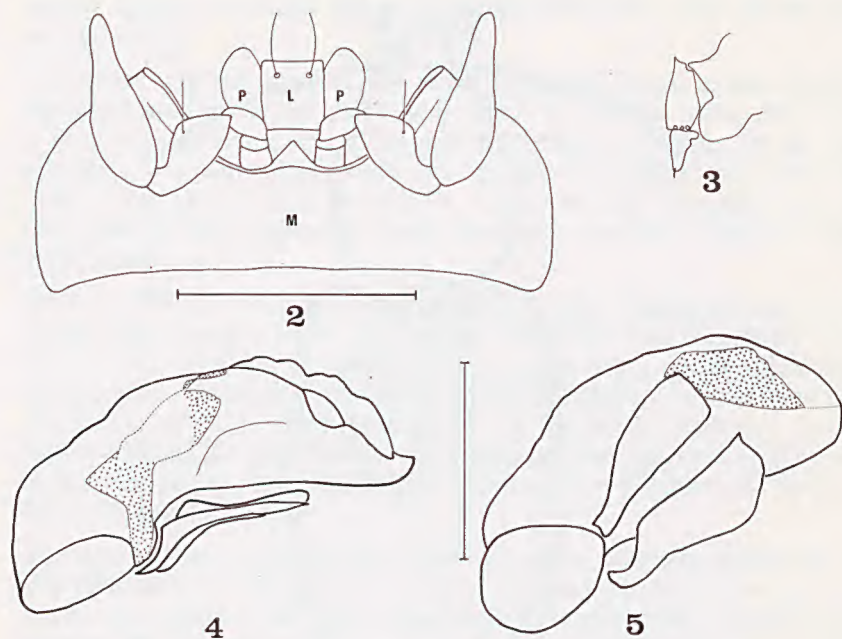


Fig 1. *Haplanister crypticus* get. et sp. nov. paratype male; natural length = 3.9 mm.

channel narrow, evanescent on base before level of scutellum; median line and basal foveae obsolescent, latter with a few fine punctures; elytra subparallel, lightly striate on disc, striae obsolescent towards margins; intervals flat; hindwings fully developed; metepisterna very elongate, impunctate; abdominal sternites impunctate; apical sternites 4-setose in both sexes; anterior tibial spur broader in male than in female. Length 3.9-4.1 mm; maximum width 1.7-1.85 mm.

Discussion. Within the rather limited New Zealand harpaline fauna, *Haplanister crypticus* may be recognised by its small size, subcylindrical form, suborbicular pronotum, glabrous abdominal sternites and unmodified male foretarsi. It appears to be extending its range in settled areas and I have seen recently specimens from various localities in South Island (collected by R.M. Emberson), as well as from Chatham Island and Pitt Island in the off-shore Chatham Is group east of South Island.



Figs 2-5. *Haplanister crypticus* get. et sp. nov. (2), ventral mouthparts (l = ligula, m = mentum, p = paraglossa); (3), female styli, left side, ventral; (4), aedeagus in left lateral view; (5), aedeagus in ventral view. Scale lines = 0.2 mm.

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